

**CALIFORNIA WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD  
STATE YOUTH COUNCIL  
April 18, 2002  
Pasadena, California**

**MINUTES**

Members of the State Youth Council of the California Workforce Investment Board (State Board) met in Pasadena on April 18, 2002. A list of the Members who attended this meeting is attached.

**Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Ms. Ann Savage, Chair of the State Youth Council, thanked the State Youth Council Members and audience for attending. She introduced Mr. Phillip Dunn, Director, Foothill Workforce Investment Board, in Pasadena. Mr. Dunn welcomed the State Youth Council to Pasadena and shared some of the activities that the local board and youth council are engaged in. He also introduced the Chair of the Pasadena Board, Dr. Kathy Brandes from Monrovia Unified School District.

Ms. Savage asked State Youth Council Members to introduce themselves, identify their affiliations, and share any brief announcements. Ms. Nellie McGarry mentioned that Merced County held a Youth to Youth Success Conference last month and 98 people attended from Napa County to Riverside. Ms. McGarry informed Members that youth from this conference were interested in presenting their goals at the next State Youth Council Meeting. Ms. McGarry expects that six youth, who also serve on local youth councils, would like to make this presentation. Dr. Jorge Ayala related that Yolo County held a youth conference and over a thousand students attended. Various businesses, military and education providers participated in this conference. Dr. Ayala stated that some of the businesses were hiring during the conference. Mr. David Rattray announced that the School-to-Career Academy is being held June 16-18 and brochures are included in the Member packets. Ms. Sonia Hernandez shared that she is one of the national co-chairs for the Public Education Network National Conference which will be held in November. Ms. Hernandez emphasized that this group is highlighting strategies like the work of the State Youth Council as a promising practice in changing the lives of youth.

**Approval of Minutes - January 31, 2002**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the January 31 minutes as presented. The motion was carried unanimously.

**Work Group Reports and Discussion**

Ms. Savage stated that the four work groups have done a lot of good work and have provided good input between the last January 31, 2002 Council Meeting and today. Ms. Savage referred to the workgroups for a progress report.

### Youth Involvement Work Group

Ms. Ariel Smoke presented three recommendations to the State Youth Council from the Youth Involvement Work Group. Recommendations included: 1) formation of a Youth Advisory Council (YAC) to ensure that the statewide “youth voice” is heard by the State Youth Council; 2) creation of a mentorship system with adult State Youth Council Members serving on the Work Group along with youth and young adult members; and 3) establishment of the Youth Involvement Work Group as a permanent work group.

Council members discussed the Youth Involvement Work Group recommendations. Ms. Rita Cepeda emphasized the importance of diversity and involvement of at-risk youth on the YAC. Mr. Joseph Werner suggested considering geographical diversity as well. Dr. Bernard Davitto pointed out the distinction between symbolic inclusion and substantive inclusion and he recommended ensuring that youth participation on the YAC be substantive. Dr. Milbrey McLaughlin questioned the restriction to statewide organizations and Ms. Cepeda agreed, noting there are many extraordinary regional and local youth groups that should not be excluded from the process. Mr. David Rattray asked whether the California Workforce Investment Board has sufficient funds to support YAC meetings and activities and Mr. Paul Gussman, Deputy Director of the California Workforce Investment Board, confirmed that staff will identify appropriate funding sources. Members asked the Work Group to bring back the criteria and the composition for the YAC to the next full State Youth Council.

Ms. Erin Gabel said the Youth Involvement Work Group will revise the recommendations to incorporate the suggestions of State Youth Council members. There was unanimous consensus to accept the recommendations proposed by the Youth Involvement Work Group.

### Comprehensive Youth System Work Group

Mr. Rattray stated that the Comprehensive Youth System Work Group identified a number of ways the State Youth Council can help in the Work Group’s effort which include: 1) encourage and support empowering local youth councils to pursue development of a comprehensive system; 2) adopt the Youth Council Institute’s (YCI) all-youth, one-system framework; 3) encourage and influence local Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) to support youth councils in pursuit of their own comprehensive youth systems; 4) endorse an existing framework or support development of a comparable way of describing a comprehensive youth system; 5) identify and influence drivers; 6) provide policy guidance on flexible uses of categorical dollars; 7) provide financial incentives for those who pursue comprehensive youth systems; 8) increase and support youth participation; and 9) establish goals based on the vision, leadership, collaboratives and partnerships that define how to measure system-building activity.

Mr. Rattray presented the following recommendations from the Work Group: 1) support the Critical Youth Needs Work Group priority of promoting youth involvement in local youth councils; 2) adopt an all-youth, one-system approach; 3) establish a formal connection with the YCI; 4) engage in discussion of priorities and issues related to areas identified by the Work Group; and 5) provide guidance on the flexible use of categorical funding streams. Dr. McLaughlin suggested that the Work Group identify flexible categorical funding streams. Members also briefly discussed the possibility of an interagency Work Group. Ms. Gabel clarified that the Youth Involvement Work Group is working on the issue of promoting youth involvement in local youth councils not the Critical Youth Needs Workgroup and the

Comprehensive Youth System Work Group agreed to change their recommendation to reflect the correct Work Group reference. There was unanimous consensus to accept the recommendations made by the Comprehensive Youth System Work Group.

#### Workforce Investment Act Issues

Mr. Werner discussed core issues identified by the Workforce Investment Act Issues Work Group and he shared the following recommendations: the State Youth Council should 1) advocate for change in the law to give locals flexibility to define income eligibility guidelines consistent with adults; 2) work with the Governor's Office to obtain some of the Reed Act funds that were recently released so they can be used to build one-stop infrastructure; 3) focus on the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and WIA reauthorizations to help leverage funds for youth; 4) identify possible waivers from legislative requirements; 5) advocate for more flexibility in the 30 percent spending restriction for out-of-school youth; and, 6) provide monetary incentives to encourage a closer relationship between the educational system and the workforce investment system.

Mr. Steve Arcelona clarified that the Work Group's final recommendation is that the California Workforce Investment Board, the Employment Development Department (EDD), and YCi staff work together to assess the current implementation status of WIA youth programs and develop recommendations for the State Youth Council.

Members discussed the Work Group's recommendations. Mr. Robert Levy emphasized the need for accountability as well as flexibility and he suggested that the Work Group conduct further research prior to using flexibility with 30 percent funds. The Work Group agreed to pull this recommendation for further research and consideration. Ms. Cepeda noted that one of the most serious barriers facing local WIBs is the federal emphasis on expenditures rather than outcome measures or encumbrances. Mr. Bill Lloyd cautioned that the Reed Act money will probably be earmarked for the unemployment insurance fund. There was unanimous consensus to accept all other recommendations from the Workforce Investment Act Issues Work Group.

#### Critical Youth Needs

Mr. Levy noted that the Critical Youth Needs Work Group spent considerable time trying to define its role. He reported that there was agreement that the target age bracket should be the 10-to-23-year-old, and there was extensive discussion about the challenges facing youth. Mr. Levy said the Work Group agreed the first step in developing solutions would be to inventory current programs to see what already exists, identify possible gaps, and then fill those gaps.

Mr. Rattray encouraged the Work Group to work with existing coalitions that provide mentoring around the State. Mr. Bill Lloyd expressed an interest in becoming a member of this Work Group.

Ms. Savage thanked the work groups for their reports.

## **Lunch Program - Monterey County Workforce Investment Board - Healing Pole Video**

During the lunch program, Mr. Werner presented a videotape of a pole-carving project sponsored by the Monterey County Workforce Investment Board. He introduced Mr. Demetrious Huggins, one of the artist-participants, who described how participating in the project benefited him and the other youth who participated in the Project. Mr. Werner informed Members that the carved totem pole or “Healing Pole” will be presented to the City of New York as a healing memorial. State Youth Council Members thanked Mr. Werner and Mr. Huggins. Mr. Werner offered to make copies of the Healing Pole videotape available upon request.

## **Public Comment**

Mr. Gussman announced that he just received news that Governor Davis released \$10 million for youth program solicitations. There was a brief discussion of programs who received these funds.

Ms. Victoria Kaldawi, Victoria Christian World Mission, thanked the State Youth Council for its support of youth. She commented that homeless youth in the Los Angeles area need job training, clothing, and shelter. Ms. Kaldawi suggested that youth from age 10-to-23 be targeted.

Ms. Kaldawi also shared that she applied for a grant to support an educational counseling and training program. As the Chief Executive Officer of a faith-based program, she expressed her wish that the government would not treat her organization differently from any other organizations. Ms. Kaldawi noted her mission includes working with troubled youth, families, foster youth, and victims of abuse.

## **State Youth Council Mission and Structure Discussion**

Ms. Savage opened the discussion of the State Youth Council’s structure. She proposed forming a leadership Work Group to assist the chair and vice chair in planning, developing agendas, and schedules. She recommended including representatives from each of the four Work Groups. Ms. Savage added that most meetings of this Work Group would probably be conducted by telephone conference call. There was unanimous consensus supporting establishment of a Leadership Work Group as proposed.

Ms. Savage read the State Youth Council’s mission from the Governor’s welcoming letter, from the State Board Youth Services Plan, and from the nomination letter sent to all potential State Youth Council members to open the discussion on the State Youth Council Mission. She welcomed other ideas from State Youth Council members. She encouraged participants to brainstorm rather than wordsmith.

Ms. Lois Ann Porter, Director, Youth Council Institute, facilitated the discussion of the Mission statement. Dr. McLaughlin suggested starting with the phrase, “The State Youth Council exists because.” Members also suggested the following: include language about all-youth, one-system and comprehensive youth services; include the State Youth Council’s leadership and facilitation roles; keep the mission statement as simple and concise as possible; mention “meaningful youth involvement”; include the phrase “enhance the lives of youth in California”; and include “to facilitate the development and implementation of a system which will provide all youth with viable opportunities to achieve career goals.”

Ms. Savage read the mission statement of the Colorado State Youth Council as a sample. Ms. Myeshia Grice noted that whatever wording is adopted, it should be something a 14-year-old can read and understand. Mr. Rattray proposed language about “helping youth discover and achieve their dreams.” Mr. Levy stated that the mission statement should address working with youth to meet and support challenges they face. Mr. Gussman suggested that State Board Staff work with the chair and vice-chair to draft a few alternative mission statements for the State Youth Council’s review at the August meeting. Ms. Barbara Becnel expressed concern that moving to an all-youth, one-system approach could leave out special populations that may need special treatment. Mr. Arcelona proposed letting the Youth Involvement Work Group draft the mission statement and present a draft at the August meeting. Other State Youth Council members agreed. Ms. Hernandez suggested scheduling a joint meeting with the State Board of Education to help make workforce investment a top priority.

### **Closing Comments**

Ms. Savage invited State Youth Council members to submit any questions to State Board staff that can be used as a framework for testimony at the two public hearings in June. Mr. John Merris-Coots asked the audience and participants to make sure they add the California Workforce Investment Board to their mailing lists for information about special events and important news. Ms. Savage thanked State Youth Council members, staff, facilitators, presenters, and audience members for their attendance.

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**Members in Attendance**

Steve Arcelona, Director, Treasure Island Job Corps

Dr. Jorge Ayala, Yolo County Superintendent of Schools

Barbara Becnel, Executive Director, Neighborhood House of North Richmond

Ken Burt, State Board Member and Political Director, CA Federation of Teachers

Rita Cepeda, President of Santa Ana College

Dr. Bernard Davitto, Executive Director and co-founder of Alliance for Education

Susan Fisher, Dean of Curriculum and Instruction at Center for Advanced Research and  
Technology in Clovis

Erin Gabel, Project Director of Bay Area Partnership

Myeshia Grice, Young Adult Representative for the California Youth Connection

Sonia Hernandez, President and CEO of the Los Angeles County Alliance for Student  
Achievement

Bill A. Lloyd, Director of Labor Affairs and Senate Relations, Governor's Office

Nellie McGarry, Business Owner

Dr. Milbrey McLaughlin, David Jacks Professor of Education and Public Policy at Stanford University

David Rattray, President/Executive Director UNITE-LA

Ann Savage, State Youth Council Chair, State Board Member and Director of Fund  
Development, LA Conservation Corps

Hermalinda Sapien, President/Chief Executive Officer of the Center for Employment Training  
(CET)

Ariel Smoke, Youth Representative for 4-H Ambassadors

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Dorothy Thompson, Founder & Executive Director of Streetlights

Officer David Tos, Community Relations Police Officer for SDPD

Joseph Werner, Executive Director, Monterey County Local Workforce Investment Area

Dr. Carl Wong, State Youth Council Vice-Chair, Superintendent of Petaluma City School  
District